

The Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) as a Loving Teacher

- **(STORY #1)** Mu'awiya ibn al-Hakam as-Sulami (radhiallahu anhu) narrates: "I was praying with Rasulullah (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) when suddenly a person (in the congregation) sneezed, so I said "*yarhamuka Allah*" to him.

As soon as I said that, everyone started to stare at me. I told them, "May my mother cry over me! Why are you all staring at me like that!?"

So then they started to slap their hands against their thighs, after which I realized that they were trying to tell me to be quiet. So I stayed silent.

Then, the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) called me to him. May my mother and father be sacrificed for him; I had not seen a better teacher than him, neither before him nor after him.

By Allah, he neither rebuked me, nor hit me, nor cursed me, but rather kindly said: **"It is not appropriate that you talk in prayer. Prayer is but *tasbeeh*, and *takbeer* and recitation of Qur'an."** (Narrated by Muslim and Ahmad)

From this story, we learn:

Lesson (1): The kindness and mercy of the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) for those who did not know.

Lesson (2): We must show good manners, at all times, even if someone makes a mistake.

Lesson (3): Explain the correct behaviors kindly and with softness.

- **(STORY #2)** Abu Hurairah (radhiAllahu anhu) said: "A Bedouin stood up in the masjid and started to urinate. So all the Sahabah who were present ran to stop him from this action, so the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said to them, **"Leave him...Just pour a bucket of water over that area (after he's finished), for you have been sent to make it easy upon the people, and have not been sent to make it hard for the people."** (Bukhari; #220)

In the narration by Ibn Majah and Ibn Hibban it is mentioned that when this Bedouin came to know what is right and wrong, he said: “May my mother and father be sacrificed for him! He neither blamed me nor cursed me!” (Fathul-Bari)

Lesson (1): In this story, we learn that we must use wisdom in teaching others.

Lesson (2): One should be easy-going and not harsh upon the people who commit wrong unknowingly.

Lesson (3): One should explain correct behaviors kindly and with softness.

Lesson (4): We learn from this hadith that the followers of the Messenger (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) are also commanded to follow the Messenger in his lofty and noble character. The Messenger (salallahu alaihi wa sallam) told the Sahabah: “...**you have been sent to make it easy upon the people, and have not been sent to make it hard for the people.**”